

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Extended Study Session

April 23, 2001
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Marshall, Councilmembers Creighton, Davidson, Degginger, Lee, and Noble

ABSENT: Mayor Mosher

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Marshall opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and announced recess to executive session for approximately 15 minutes to discuss one item concerning property disposition. The study session resumed at 6:27 p.m. with Mrs. Marshall presiding.

➡ Mr. Creighton moved to amend the agenda to insert as item 3 (b), Resolution No. 6537 – Sale of Property, and the motion was seconded.

➡ The agenda was approved, as amended, by a vote of 6-0.

2. Oral Communications: None.

3. Study Session

(a) Council New Initiatives

There was no discussion of this agenda item.

(b) Resolution No. 6537 – Sale of Property

Deputy Mayor Marshall noted that Council discussed this item in executive session. The resolution will authorize the City Manager to execute documents necessary for the sale of property seized pursuant to a drug forfeiture by the Eastside Narcotics Task Force.

➡ Mr. Degginger moved to approve Resolution No. 6537, and Mr. Creighton seconded the motion.

➡ The motion to approve Resolution No. 6537 carried by a vote of 6-0.

(c) Access Downtown Project

City Manager Steve Sarkozy requested Council action on two items related to the Access Downtown project.

Transportation Director Goran Sparrman said the proposed Cooperative Agreement with Sound Transit and Construction Agreement with Washington State Department of Transportation will formalize each agency's role in the project. The Cooperative Agreement provides the overall framework for the use of the City's and Sound Transit's resources throughout the project. The Construction Agreement clarifies responsibilities for constructing the I-405/SE 8th Street interchange modifications and local arterial street improvements.

Mrs. Marshall noted that action on the two agreements was postponed from Council's April 16 Regular Session to allow additional time for review.

Mr. Degginger noted that section 1.6 of the Construction Agreement stipulates the State must provide monthly progress reports to the City. He would like Council to receive copies of the progress reports as well.

In response to Mr. Lee, Mr. Sparrman said an extensive environmental review process for the Access Downtown project has been ongoing for several years and the public has had multiple opportunities to provide feedback on the project. Mr. Sparrman said it will be very important to stay on schedule with this project as delays could result in significant budgetary impacts.

Dr. Davidson raised a concern regarding the reliability of Sound Transit's funding for the project. Mr. Sparrman said Sound Transit's funding is essential for completing the project. He noted the Access Downtown project is a key initiative in Sound Transit's plans for East King County. Dr. Davidson questioned what would happen if the taxing authority for Sound Transit is not renewed by voters. Mr. Sparrman said the Access Downtown project is funded through Sound Transit's Phase I plan, previously approved by the voters. He acknowledged, however, the uncertainty of Sound Transit Phase II funding.

- (1) Resolution No. 6532 authorizing execution of a Cooperative Agreement with Sound Transit for the purpose of funding the design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of the Access Downtown Project improvements. (CIP Project No. PW-I-46)
("Umbrella" agreement discussed with Council on March 19, 2001)
- (2) Resolution No. 6533 authorizing execution of a construction agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation for I-405/SE 8th Street interchange modifications and local arterial street improvements. (CIP Project No. PW-I-46)

☛ Mr. Degginger moved to approve Resolution No. 6532 and Resolution No. 6533, and Mr. Noble seconded the motion.

- The motion to approve Resolution No. 6532 and Resolution No. 6533 carried by a vote of 6-0.

(d) Regional Issues

Mr. Sarkozy noted that Council will be asked in May to adopt a resolution approving a November 2001 county-wide ballot measure to fund Emergency Medical Services for 2002 through 2007.

Fire Chief Peter Lucarelli said the EMS 2002 Task Force met on March 27 to finalize its work on the EMS strategic plan and formulate recommendations. The Task Force recommends that King County present a ballot measure to voters in November. Kent and Federal Way have requested that they and other fire agencies served by South King County paramedics be allowed to study a fire-based consortium approach to ALS (Advanced Life Support) services.

In response to Mr. Noble, Chief Lucarelli noted that the proposed letter to the King County Council reflects Bellevue's commitment to retaining cost effectiveness and efficiency provisions in the current EMS system.

At Mr. Creighton's suggestion, Council agreed to remove the last sentence of the draft letter. He is not opposed to South King County's desire to study the feasibility of providing their own ALS services. However, he would support such an approach only if it was found to be cost effective for those jurisdictions and the Medic One system.

Dr. Davidson expressed concern about the suggested tax levy rate of a maximum of \$.25 per \$1,000 assessed property value. He feels property tax revenues are not the appropriate method for funding EMS. He is reluctant to support the proposed tax rate because he has not been provided information regarding the actual cost of operating the Medic One system. Chief Lucarelli estimated that the annual cost for the EMS system is approximately \$41 million.

In response to Mr. Degginger, Chief Lucarelli said the King County Council reviews and approves the EMS budget.

Mr. Lee supports Dr. Davidson's comments. Mr. Lee is concerned with the use of the phrase "pleased to transmit our approval of the proposed ballot measure" in the letter to the King County Council. He is reluctant to support the recommendation and would like to see an alternative, long-term EMS funding source developed.

Mr. Creighton said while he is disappointed that funding alternatives were not identified, he feels the issue has been thoroughly studied and debated and he is ready to proceed with supporting the recommendation for a ballot measure at this time. Mrs. Marshall agreed and noted former Councilmember Smith's diligence in trying to identify and explore funding alternatives. She thanked Chief Lucarelli for his work on the Task Force following Mr. Smith's retirement from the Council. Council will take formal action on the EMS proposal on May 7.

Assistant City Manager Karen Reed introduced Regional Issues Manager Diane Carlson, Planning Director Dan Stroh, and King County Demographer Chandler Felt to provide a report on the Growth Management Planning Council's 2002 population allocation decisions. Ms. Carlson said the state Office of Financial Management prepares 20-year county population forecasts every 10 years. The next forecast will be issued in February 2002. King County jurisdictions are required to accommodate population figures and associated housing and employment targets in their Comprehensive Plans.

Mr. Felt compared population, housing, and employment statistics for King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties. While King County still has the largest share for each of these categories, its proportion of total population, housing, and jobs decreased slightly since 1980. He then reviewed the same type of information for King County's subregional areas: Seattle-Shoreline, Greater Eastside, and South King County. Seattle-Shoreline had the largest share of population and housing in both 1980 and 1999. Mr. Felt noted that the Eastside's share of jobs nearly doubled between 1980 and 1999.

Mr. Felt described bar graphs showing changes in King County subregional growth. South King County experienced the largest share of population growth in both the 1980s and 1990s. The Eastside had the largest share of job growth, 44.8%, in the 1990s. South King County jobs grew by 19.5% in the 1990s, compared to a population increase of 53%. Seattle-Shoreline experienced considerable increases in both housing units (38.9%) and jobs (35.6%) during the 1990s.

Mr. Felt described additional graphs depicting trends in population and job growth and housing prices. He reviewed a work trip analysis based on 1998 regional data. The analysis indicates that two-thirds of all job trips originating from Eastside homes have destinations within the Eastside subarea.

Mr. Creighton, who serves on the GMPC, observed that the "reverse" commute of people from Seattle traveling to Eastside jobs has increased significantly since 1998.

Dr. Davidson reiterated his frustration with the practice of dividing King County into subareas for public policy/planning purposes. Mr. Felt explained that his use of subareas makes analysis of the data more manageable.

Mr. Degginger noted that the Eastside represents a significant share of housing units and jobs. He hopes this information will be used in decisions affecting the allocation of transportation infrastructure funding throughout the region. Ms. Carlson confirmed that much of the discussion at GMPC emphasized the need to link growth to transportation planning and funding.

Deputy Mayor Marshall commented on a public perception that a city can refuse to allow continued growth including housing and employment targets. Mr. Stroh said the Growth Management Act requires counties and cities to work together to accommodate 20-year growth projections and targets. Countywide Planning Policies guide the allocation of these targets. If a city were to refuse to accept its targets, the city would be in breach of the Growth Management Act. Mr. Creighton noted there is some debate on this issue among jurisdictions, and some

maintain that cities are not required to follow targets established in the Countywide Planning Policies. Mr. Stroh read an excerpt from the Growth Management Act: "Based upon the growth management projection made for the county by the Office of Financial Management, the county and each city within the county shall include areas and densities sufficient to permit the urban growth as projected to occur in the county or city for the succeeding 20-year period."

In response to Mr. Lee, Ms. Carlson said staff will continue to update Council as new Growth Management Act targets are developed in the coming year.

Moving on, Ms. Carlson said the Puget Sound Regional Council will meet on May 24 to adopt the Metropolitan Transportation Plan known as Destination 2030. Selected highlights of the plan, including an enhanced emphasis on the region's major transportation corridors (I-405, I-90 and SR 520), are provided on page 38 of the Regional Issues packet.

Mrs. Marshall thanked staff for keeping the Council well informed on this issue and successfully advocating Bellevue's position. She noted Council consensus to support the proposed Destination 2030 plan and to send Mayor Mosher to the General Assembly meeting to cast Bellevue's vote.

Mr. Creighton praised Bellevue's effectiveness in providing input into the Destination 2030 plan and recognized the efforts of Deputy Mayor Marshall, Councilmembers Degginger and Noble, City staff, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, and Bellevue Downtown Association.

Ms. Reed noted the 2001 state legislative session update beginning on page 45 of the Regional Issues packet. The regular session ended on Sunday, April 22, with the expectation that a special legislative session would be scheduled. Mrs. Marshall thanked lobbyists Bob Mack and Mike Doubleday for their legislative work including passage of the alternative public works contracting procedures bill and continued funding for the state's pipeline safety office. Mr. Mack noted the involvement and leadership of Mayor Mosher on pipeline safety issues.

Mr. Doubleday said the state's operating/capital budget must be adopted by June. However, adoption of a transportation budget could occur later and necessitate an additional special legislative session.

Ms. Reed noted packet materials regarding the state transportation budget beginning on page 50 of the packet. A table beginning on page 56 summarizes the proposed regional transportation bills. Mr. Doubleday said the two House proposals are expected to merge at the outset of the special session.

Mrs. Marshall feels strongly that elected officials should be able to serve on any newly established board or forum to address traffic planning/congestion relief. Mr. Degginger agreed with this position.

Dr. Davidson is in favor of the regional approach reflected in Senate Bill 6140 sponsored by Senators Horn and McDonald. He observed that local elected officials can experience difficulty

in reaching consensus on regional solutions. Mr. Lee encouraged Council support of SB 6140, which he feels addresses Bellevue's interests.

Mr. Noble expressed support of the final draft "Friday Morning Group" letter discussing transportation priorities and provided in the Council desk packets.

- ➡ Mr. Creighton moved to direct staff to send the "Friday Morning Group" letter on transportation priorities, and Mr. Noble seconded the motion.
- ➡ The motion to direct staff to send the "Friday Morning Group" letter on transportation priorities carried by a vote of 5-1 with Mr. Lee opposed.

Mr. Lee is doubtful that the recommendations in the letter will be incorporated into the transportation budget by the state legislature.

Mrs. Marshall is in favor of also sending a separate letter from the City of Bellevue to further comment on specific priorities. Mr. Creighton suggested clarification/expansion of the first paragraph following the heading "Funding Principles." Mrs. Marshall suggested minor revisions to the last paragraph and noted that the *City of Bellevue Principles for Regional Transportation Structures* will be attached to the letter.

- ➡ Mr. Lee moved to direct staff to send the City of Bellevue letter regarding transportation priorities, as revised during Council discussion, and Mr. Noble seconded the motion.
- ➡ The motion to direct staff to send the City of Bellevue letter regarding transportation priorities, as revised, carried by a vote of 6-0.

(e) 148th Avenue SE Preferred Alternative

Transportation Director Goran Sparrman recalled previous Council discussions of the 148th Avenue SE Roadway Improvements project. He requested Council's support of the preferred alternative but noted that the project budget and financing plan have not been fully developed.

Nancy McGarity, Project Manager, said the 1992 East Bellevue Transportation Study identified a project to add one southbound lane from SE 24th Street to I-90. This project was subsequently added to the 1999-2005 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. Four alternatives were initially developed and evaluated using the following criteria: corridor level of service, intersection level of service, air quality, noise, contaminated soil, impacts to existing trees, preliminary costs, community involvement, and safety. Alternative 1 did not score well against the criteria and did not significantly improve traffic flow over a 10-year timeframe. Alternative 2 would have required removal of the Texaco service station and the relocation of a sound wall and therefore did not score favorably either. Alternative 3 did not score well because it required the removal of landscaping along St. Andrews Church and a significant number of trees in Robinswood Park. Alternative 4 was not supported by Bellevue Community College or the surrounding residential community.

Ms. McGarity said two additional alternatives were then developed, Modified Alternative 2 and Modified Alternative 4. Modified Alternative 2, proposed by Bellevue Community College, did not score very high against the criteria. While it improved the level of service for traffic flow, it required removal of the Texaco service station, relocation of the sound wall, and the addition of a pedestrian overpass. Modified Alternative 4 was developed by City staff after discussions with BCC and the surrounding business and residential community. These two alternatives were presented to Council at the February 12, 2001, Extended Study Session.

Ms. McGarity noted that Modified Alternative 4 requires the acquisition of a portion of a development parcel in the area. This alternative score higher than any of the alternatives considered to date. The alternative: 1) improves both corridor and intersection level of service, 2) improves vehicular and pedestrian safety, and 3) is supported by the community and adjacent property owners. Ms. McGarity said staff requests Council approval to move Modified Alternative 4 into the final design phase. Staff is working to identify and pursue outside funding sources and develop a more detailed design-level project estimate for right-of-way acquisition and construction.

In response to Mr. Noble, Mr. Sparrman said this specific project was identified and placed in the CIP Plan several years ago. The upcoming North-South Corridor Study will analyze opportunities to optimize traffic flow along the entire 148th Avenue corridor but is not intended to produce recommendations for major capacity improvements.

In response to Mr. Lee, Mr. Sparrman said staff always looks at ways to utilize technology and identify innovative solutions for public projects. The focus of the North-South Corridor Study will be on optimizing traffic flow, primarily through the use of technology.

Mr. Degginger commended staff for working with the community toward a creative alternative for this project. He supports Modified Alternative 4 as the preferred alternative.

Mr. Creighton would like to see BCC implement a U-Pass (transit pass) program similar to the University of Washington's program.

Mrs. Marshall thanked Ron Matthew, Chair, for the Transportation Commission's work on this project.

- ➡ Mr. Lee moved to direct staff to move forward with Modified Alternative 4 for the 148th Avenue SE Roadway Improvements project, and Mr. Noble seconded the motion.
- ➡ The motion to direct staff to move forward with Modified Alternative 4 for the 148th Avenue SE Roadway Improvements project carried by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Lee thanked staff for coordinating the extensive public involvement process. Mrs. Marshall expressed concern about the cost of the project and the need for additional funding. Mr. Sparrman said staff will review the CIP Plan for funding opportunities, pursue external grants, and continue working to secure BCC's help in identifying additional funding resources.

(f) Follow-up on Water Shortage

Mr. Sarkozy recalled Council's previous discussion regarding the 2001 summer water supply and contingency planning. Utilities Director Lloyd Warren said Bellevue's water use has decreased approximately 13 percent and region-wide water use has decreased 8 percent. He feels the region will be able to get through the summer months using a voluntary approach to water conservation. However, should mandatory watering restrictions become necessary, Mr. Warren requested Council direction on the following questions: Should exemptions from mandatory lawn restrictions and/or a lawn watering ban be provided for new lawns? If so, how should a "new lawn" be defined?

Mr. Warren said staff recommends approving an exemption for watering new lawns during watering restrictions or bans, as allowed by the procedures in the Contingency Plan. He noted that the Environmental Services Commission's recommendation is to provide an exemption for watering new lawns only during watering restrictions, as allowed by the procedures in the Contingency Plan, but not in the event of a ban. Staff recommends that a new lawn be defined as seeded or sod lawns installed according to the requirements outlined in the Contingency Plan after October 1st of the previous calendar year.

In response to Mr. Degginger, Resource Conservation Manager Mike Jackman said Bellevue averaged approximately 250 new homes/lawns annually during the past few years. Even taking into consideration residents in existing homes who plant new lawns, the percentage of new lawns in the community is estimated to be quite low. Mr. Warren noted that individuals must apply for an exemption and are required to post a sign to that effect in their yard.

In response to Mr. Creighton, Mr. Jackman said new sod lawns recover from a drought more easily than new seeded lawns. He said the Washington State University Extension Office recommends defining a new lawn as any lawn planted within the calendar year. However, they also advise that lawns planted the previous fall should be allowed to be watered at least a few times a month in order to keep the roots alive.

Dr. Davidson noted that residents requesting exemptions will be instructed about how to water efficiently. He feels exemptions should be allowed, in part because of the potential negative impacts of a full ban on the landscaping industry. He is pleased that citizens have already been conserving water on a voluntary basis.

In response to Mrs. Marshall, Parks and Community Services Director Patrick Foran expressed support of staff's recommendation. He feels this represents an opportunity to educate the public about efficient and effective planting and watering practices. He does not anticipate negative impacts on City parks.

- ➡ Mr. Degginger moved to adopt staff's recommendation to provide an exemption for watering new lawns during watering restrictions and bans, as allowed by the procedures in the Contingency Plan. Dr. Davidson seconded the motion.

- ➡ The motion to adopt staff's recommendation to provide an exemption for watering new lawns during watering restrictions and bans, as allowed by the procedures in the Contingency Plan, carried by a vote of 6-0.
- ➡ Mr. Degginger moved to direct staff to amend the Water Code to define a new lawn as seeded or sod lawns installed according to the requirements outlined in the Contingency Plan after October 1st of the previous calendar year. Mr. Lee seconded the motion.
- ➡ The motion to direct staff to amend the Water Code to define a new lawn as seeded or sod lawns installed according to the requirements outlined in the Contingency Plan after October 1st of the previous calendar year carried by a vote of 6-0.

Mrs. Marshall noted that the Water Code change will appear as a future Consent Calendar agenda item.

At 9:08 p.m., Deputy Mayor Marshall declared the meeting adjourned.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

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